the country during the Seventh Five Year Plan is 159 million tonnes.

(b) Some of the steps in this behalf are:—

(1) Use of enhanced oil recovery techniques;

(2) Intensification of work over operations;

(3) Intensification of exploration which may eventually lead the enhanced production; and

(4) Induction of advanced technology.

Import of Soda Ash

962. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import soda Ash to help actual users in small scale sector to meet their requirements;

(b) if so, the quantity proposed to be imported and the amount of foreign exchange likely to be spent during 1985-86 and the reasons for import; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to increase the production of Soda Ash in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) In the current import policy, Soda Ash is under Open General Licence (OGL) to Actual Users. Further, the State Trading Corporation, Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Limited. (MMTC), State Small Scale Industries Development Corporation and Public Sector Trading and Services Agencies can also import Soda Ash for supply off-the-shelf to the Actual Users. MMTC has decided to import 5,000 tonnes of Light Soda Ash during 1985-86 for supply to the Small Scale consumers who are not able to import Soda Ash themselves. Out of this, a quantity of 3,000 tonnes is expected to reach the country in December, 1985. As per available information, the likely outgo of foreign exchange on account of import of Soda Ash is in the region of $ 150 per tonne.

(c) The present annual installed capacity of Soda Ash is 10.05 lakh tonnes. In addition to this a further capacity of 6.53 lakh tonnes has been approved in the shape of Industrial Licences/Letters of Intent to meet the future demand. Irrespective of this feasible proposal for setting up additional capacity will be considered favourably by the Government.

Loss suffered by IDPL

963. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IDPL is at present running into very heavy losses due to a very low share of its own in the drug market in the country as compared to its massive infrastucture; and

(b) if so, whether there are reasons other than the one mentioned in part (a) above responsible for this state of affairs on IDPL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R.K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) Inadequate marketing is one of the reasons for the losses of IDPL.

(b) Some of the reasons are underutilisation of installed capacity production of drugs predominently comprising Category I and II bulk drugs and formulations with low mark-up, high costs of production and technological obsolesence in respect of many products.